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SUMMER 2008 NEWSLETTER FOR THE PEOPLE OF

Union Grove Lake

Learn More at July 8 Information Fair

July 8 marks the next big event for the Union Grove Lake Watershed Project. An information fair will be held at the Youth Center on the lake's east shore, 3:00-8:00 p.m.

Experts will be available on-site with information on a variety of topics including:

- septic systems
- water quality and the project's water quality monitoring plan

- conservation practices and the Conservation Reserve Program
- rain gardens
- eco-friendly household practices
- National Wildlife Federation's backyard program for Certified Wildlife Habitat
- lake fishing and more.

Make sure you come to the fair hungry! In the

afternoon, the Tama Soil & Water Conservation District commissioners will serve free watermelon. From 5:00 until 7:00, the Tama County Pork Producers will be offering a meal for sale: pork burger, chips, baked beans, and a drink for \$5.



A Rain Garden? Hasn't It Rained Enough?

No, rain gardens aren't for growing rain.

Rain gardens are depressions in the landscape that have had their original soil removed and mixed with sand and compost to enhance water filtration. They can then

be planted with perennial flowers or native vegetation that soak up the rainwater.

Rain gardens filter water runoff from impervious surfaces, such as roofs and streets, and filter the water into the

ground. They're a colorful way to improve water quality and reduce storm water runoff.

Join us at the Union Grove Youth Shelter on September 2nd to learn more about rain gardens! The event begins at 6:30.

Scheduled Events:

Information Fair	July 8
Youth Shelter	3-8 p.m.
Rain Garden Workshop	Sept 2
Youth Shelter	6:30 p.m.

If you prefer to receive Union Grove Lake Watershed's quarterly newsletter electronically, please contact Melody Bro at melody.bro@ia.usda.gov.



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Union Grove Lake Watershed

Tama Soil & Water Conservation District

102 Hwy 30 West

Toledo, Iowa 52342

Water Quality in Union Grove Lake Watershed

Nothing serves as a better barometer of our local environment's health than its water quality. That's why the quality of the water in and above Union Grove Lake will be monitored throughout the three-year life of the Union Grove Lake Watershed Project.

Water quality testing during the early months of the project will provide a baseline showing Union Grove's current conditions. In this way, as conservation practices are applied during the life of the watershed project, progress can be shown toward the project's ultimate goals of meeting the intended use of the lake (recreation) and the lake's removal from Iowa's Impaired Waters List.

In early June, Project Coordinator Melody Bro and several volunteers

began sampling water at three sites along the center line of the lake and at two sites along tributaries of Deer Creek north of the lake. The samples are tested on-site for dissolved oxygen and water clarity. They are then shipped to the University of Iowa Hygienic Lab (UHL) in Ankeny to be tested for nitrogen and phosphorus content. In addition, the lake samples are also tested at UHL for chlorophyll, and the tributary sites are also tested for *E. coli* and solids.

By working together, Union Grove's rural and lakeside residents can make great strides to improve the health of the Union Grove Lake Watershed.

For information on water quality, contact Melody Bro at 641/484-2702, ext. 120 or at melody.bro@ia.usda.gov.



A Union Grove Lake water sample is tested for its dissolved oxygen content.

Did you know? Union Grove State Park was established 70 years ago in 1938.